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Small Farm Programs and Activities

State Reports, 1980 and 1981

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Foreword

In September 1980, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Science and Education Administration, published a report on activities of each State Small Farm Committee for 1979. This publication is an update, showing the current chairperson of each State Small Farm Committee and a few highlights of activities for the years 1980 and 1981.

Small Farm Committees were organized in each State in 1979 in order to serve as a focal point for coordinated assistance by USDA and other Federal and State agencies to small scale family farmers.

Small farmers must deal with many of the same problems faced by larger operators such as high land, credit, and production costs and uncertain markets. However, small farmers have other concerns that are specific to their scale of operation. Therefore, although many USDA programs benefit farms of any size, the Department has directed attention to small and beginning farmers in such areas as research, farm management, profitable enterprise combinations, production and technology, energy efficiency, woodland management, cooperatives, and marketing strategies.

It is hoped that this summary of activities will give some flavor of the types of initiatives that public and private agencies, working cooperatively, can make available to small farm families.

This report was compiled and edited by the following members of the USDA Small Farm Working Group: Craig Ahlberg, Farmers Home Administration; Ovid Bay, Extension Service; Carl Deitemeyer, Agricultural Cooperative Service; Lynn Pickinpaugh, Farmers Home Administration; Warren Post, Forest Service; Mansy Pullen, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service; and Doug Sellars, Soil Conservation Service.

November 1981

ALABAMA

The goal of a joint Extension-TVA program is to assist small farmers increase productivity by selecting high income crops suitable for small scale production, adapting technology and/or overcoming cultural problems. For example, two strawberry demonstrations revealed that approximately \$4,000 can be grossed from one acre of pick-your-own strawberries with establishment and production costs less than \$1,000. Hence, farmers income generated by one acre of strawberries was equivalent of 25 acres of cotton or 35 acres of soybeans.

Many small farms in northern Alabama are turning to horticultural crops to stay in business. In Lauderdale County, a Southern pea demonstration yielded 250 bushels with cash sales of \$2,000 plus \$25, value of peas consumed at home. Production expenses were \$85 giving a net value of \$1,940. In DeKalb County, one grower grossed \$3,569 from one acre of cantaloupes. His expenses were \$1,369 giving a net of \$2,200.

There are growing markets for small growers of vegetables and small fruits in Alabama. In Jackson County, a new market was established in 1978. A total of 31 growers kept the market open 50 days and had gross sales of \$22,000. In 1979, 47 growers kept the market open 90 days and sold \$36,000 worth of produce.

A meeting for new greenhouse operations enabled 60 people to receive training in the technology involved in proper crop production in greenhouses.

ALASKA

In 1977, two Yukon River villages Ruby and Galena began subsistence gardening which expanded to seven in 1978, and to twenty villages in 1979.

Interior Alaska, Northwest Alaska, and Upper Aniak River subsistence gardening activities are taking place. Over 100 Alaskan villages are involved in this type of agriculture or are asking help to start. The Extension Service has been encouraged by the Legislature to submit a 700,000 proposed program which would increase field staff (each Alaskan field staffer costs approximately \$85,500) and institute a garden aide program for residents of 20 rural villages. Approximately, \$1,000,000 dollars has been included for a village gardening assistance project in the operational budget of the Division of Agriculture for FY '81.

The State of Alaska is attempting to make available 500,000 acres of class II and III lands for agriculture by 1990. The Delta Agricultural Project consists of 60,000 acres in cleared farms of which approximately 25,000 acres are to be sold in 1981. The Point McKenzie Agricultural Project has provided for an additional 30 farms. Although in the lower States the news media has emphasized family farms

in the range of 500 to 2,500 acres, an even larger number of smaller farms ranging from 20 to 30 acres have been sold. Alaska's Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund has provided 6% interest rates to both the part-time farmer and the full scale family farmer. In addition, cattle are being raised in greater numbers due to the availability of barley from the Delta Project. Reindeer herds are being managed on the Seward Peninsula, and reindeer husbandry is the subject of research extension, and state legislative attention. A ten year program for farm development has been proposed to Alaska's Legislature which will cost an estimated \$487 million dollars through 1990.

ARIZONA

A Small Farm Task Force membership is made up of representatives from USDA Agencies, CSA, ACTION, BIA, BLM, OEPAD, and The Navajo Tribe. Meetings are held quarterly. The name of the State Task Force was changed in 1980 to the State Small Farm and Rural Development Task Force. This new title carries additional responsibility for rural development.

The State Task Force holds meetings out in counties, upon request, to give local farmers an opportunity to discuss problems and identify possible resources.

Under the leadership of the State Small Farm Task Force, County Rural Development Committees were organized to identify small scale farmers and ranchers and to address their problems. County RDC membership is composed of representatives from the same agencies that make up the state task force.

Two special projects have been funded by ASCS. One project is designed to improve the irrigation system at Tsaile - Wheatfields on the Navajo Indian Reservation and the other to improve range pasture through fencing and water development in the Chilchinbito area.

Task force projects under consideration include:

1. Growing cottonwood trees commercially.
2. Raising sheep in confinement year round.
3. Demonstration farm at Cameron.

Cocino County with 98 small farmers reports that dryland bean growers have problems with old equipment, transportation cost to a cleaning facility in Cortez and cinders that are hard to remove. They desire to form a cooperative. Extension will provide special assistance.

Maricopa County has the largest number of part time or small scale farmers with about 1100. This number would include everything from hobby farms to small family farms. They are being serviced through regular Agency programs.

Navajo County was part of an ECOP study relative to small scale farming. There are about 207 such operators in the County. The Navajo County Rural Development Committee published a resource guide and RDC publication, Rural Assistance Director, were mailed out. Major problems are inadequate financing and high cost of operating. The county RDC is planning a field day to provide information on irrigation efficiency, energy conservation and small equipment.

Santa Cruz County with 86 small scale operators is conducting a needs assessment with the help of the Extension CRD specialist.

Yavapai County has 246 small scale farmers and identified most from USDA Agency mailing lists. A directory of duties and responsibilities of each USDA Agency has been compiled and distributed within the County by USDA offices. A "living fair" was conducted at Chino Valley in 1980 and another is planned for 1981.

Yuma County has 311 small scale operators. A resource directory was developed by the County RDC and is available for distribution by USDA agencies.

ARKANSAS

The Indian Creek Small Farm Special Project in White and Cleburne counties was one of eight ASCS projects selected nationwide in FY 81. The project received \$142,000. Approximately 600 small and low-income farmers are eligible to participate in practices such as permanent vegetative cover, sediment basins, terraces and ponds.

A fish research project has been established at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Extension Service assisted in locating ponds on farms owned by six small farmers where the research will focus on farm ponds for food and recreation.

Extension specialists and county agents worked with small farmers and assisted them with problems dealing with: Managing cost in vegetable production, marketing vegetables through farmer markets, use of irrigation, cost of producing small fruits, utilization and management of resources, feeder pig production, how to keep and use farm records and adopting new enterprises.

The new South Central Small Farms Research and Extension Center at Booneville, Arkansas, has moved into the new headquarters and has started planting small fruit plots, reports Jim Gifford, program coordinator. In addition to small fruits research, vegetable production and cow-calf-forage management will be stressed at this center which has 1,000 acres now and 600 to be added later.

CALIFORNIA

The California Open Access Information System for Small Farmers, sponsored by some 17 organizations called the Small Farmer Information Access Council, is a new and major effort to reach and serve small and Spanish farm families, with particular attention to Hispanics.

A Resource Center located at Junior Colleges is one of the project components. The Director of the Small Farm Resource Center at Hartnell College, Salinas, California will provide coordination of technical assistance available from members of local institutions who are members of the Council. The Resource Centers will provide new learning materials as well as materials already available. For example, the Confederation Agricola de California prepared a bilingual manual on "The Control of Strawberry Pests." It has functional color photos to aid in the identification of damage by specific pests. The list of those who contributed to the manual emphasizes the cooperation of resource people who are willing to help provide learning materials for small farmers.

The Reedley Community College in Reedley, California, is also preparing a Resource Center and others are being considered. The Central Information Service component of the project which consists of a Data Bank, a clearinghouse on Agricultural Information for Small Farmers, and a Resource Library is located at the University of California/Davis. It is so organized that information is retrieved easily and made available to Council member institutions as well as to the Resource Centers at the Junior Colleges, and other public and private institutions in the State. The Small Farmer Training component of the project will include farm demonstrations, short courses, and hopefully, some innovative training approaches will be developed.

The creation of the Council has increased the focus on the small farm problems in California. For instance, the California Extension Service has added 7 bilingual assistant county advisors to increase service to Spanish speaking farmer audience. Hartnell College has loaned some computer hardware to Confederacion Agricola and staff assistance to develop the software for management staff of member small producer cooperatives to use in preparing budgets, financial statements, and tax statements, etc.

The Open Access Information System for Small Farmers project is designed for two years and is being funded initially by the State CETA office for \$500,000. This does not include all of the "in kind" support by members of the Council.

COLORADO

Colorado is currently restructuring its rural development and Small Farm Program. A state-wide steering committee on May 29, 1981 recommended to the Governor a 36-member State Rural Council covering the State's six regions on a multi-county basis.

USDA will have its own rural development structure, but will have an interlocking relationship with the Rural Council. FmHA will be the lead agency. The group's plan to be operational by October 1981. The Lt. Governor's Office would serve as liaison.

At this time, there is no newly organized Small Farms Committee. However, the Extension Service is providing continuing on small farm assistance.

The "Four Corners Rabbit Producers Cooperative" is a Small Farm Family Assistance Project near Cortez. A large amount of toxic rabbit pellets devastated the producers. More than 300 does were killed and many became sterile. Currently, the members and the cooperative are preparing law suits against the feed supplier, while continuing to try to maintain the cooperative.

Another special small farmer project assisted farmers in the San Luis Valley. One innovation in this project was use of a hand-held programmable calculator to do financial analysis of farm operations. Also, the San Luis Valley project made use of a farm record book designed by a retired Extension agent which is income tax oriented.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Small Farm Committee has followed up on a list of 800 small farmers compiled by a VISTA volunteer who was part of the six-state New England Small Farmer Project. The same VISTA, Ellen Lariviere, helped small farmers in Connecticut to inform the Connecticut Legislature of the importance retaining a program to test swine for Brucellosis. In part, through the efforts of Connecticut small farmers, the testing program was retained. Through the leadership of Extension agent Debby Cole, an annual small farm conference is held in Connecticut in which farmers discuss issues in agriculture as well as learning practical skills. Workshops for small farmers sponsored by the Extension Service in 1981 included pasture management, sheep shearing, sheep breeders field day, hog tour, and tours of a Pennsylvania mushroom operation.

DELAWARE

A four-point action plan, proposed in late 1979, has now been carried out:

1. Small Farm Committees have been established in each county.
2. Each county has established Small Farm Advisory Committees composed of small farmers.

3. Public information meetings were held by county small farm committees to inform local farmers of programs and services available through State and Federal agricultural agencies.

Informational programs were developed and carried out for small farm families. Joint field tours have given farmers and agency personnel a chance to broaden their knowledge of different farm enterprises, and farming successes and failures.

The Pepper Creek Project RC & D Flood Control and Drainage Measure and the Appoquinimink Rural Clean Water Project will provide benefits to small farm families in 1981.

FLORIDA

In addition to demonstration gardens, variety trials and other field demonstrations, 11 fact sheets called "Grow A Row" were distributed by Extension for use with disadvantaged gardeners. A demonstration garden in South Florida grew 800 pounds of fresh vegetables valued at \$500 on a typical 600 square foot garden. An adjusted cost of about \$95 provided a net return of about \$400, not including labor.

A program has been initiated with an Alachua County farmer to determine whether a relative small cattleman can intensify his cattle operation by using silage as his base ration. Thirty acres of corn silage will be harvested with a new one-row, 3-point hitch mounted, power-take-off driven silage chopper and fed to 200 feeder calves. Plans for the three-year program include using one silage wagon when filling the silo, using metal panels to form temporary silos which allow self feeding, and a double cropping program using sorghum following the corn crop.

Meetings were held in four counties to explain how to supply eggs for family use and the local market. Interest was high and attendance ranged from 20 to 30 people.

A newsletter for swine producers was initiated by Extension because of the general low income of Florida's swine industry. This information goes directly to 4,500 producers and related industries.

The 2nd Annual Dairy Goat Production Conference was held. Also, Extension personnel are serving in an advisory capacity with the goat milk producers in their efforts to secure a special set of regulations for the production of goat milk. Present regulations are the same for goat and cows' milk in Florida.

The Florida State Small Farm Committee has kept in contact with the Florida State Association of Cooperatives. Cooperatives composed of small farmers are finding excellent demand for farm products.

The State Committee concentrated efforts on a five county low income area of the Florida panhandle.

GEORGIA

A new thrust has been initiated for small farmers and home gardeners in Bibb, Houston, Jones, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Talbot, Twiggs, and Wilkinson counties. Over 9,000 families have been assisted by Extension Education Assistants. A total of 6,721 soil samples were taken on small scale farms and gardens in FY'80. 95 percent of the participants had never had their soil tested before. Most of them had not been using educational material from the Extension Service. A total of 32 small farmer/gardening meetings were conducted by Extension and 12 demonstration gardens were conducted by the Education Assistants. Two curb markets were started to provide a market for locally grown produce. Over 40 farmers attended an educational program for small scale hog producers in Macon County and 200 leaflets on how to construct a portable A-framehog house have been distributed to interested farmers.

Asparagus is a high intensity crop which offers potential in Georgia. More than 125 potential growers attended an Asparagus Shortcourse and Field Day, and more than 200 families participated in a Sweet Potato Shortcourse and Field Day.

Many small farmers are participating in the cost-sharing program of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service as part of a seven-county Small Farm Family Assistance Project to demonstrate conservation tillage, double cropping, terrace systems, establishment of permanent vegetative cover, and/or planting trees.

GUAM

More than 200 small farmers and home gardeners were visited and assisted in the identification and control of plant pests and diseases found prevalent in their areas.

The Guam Aquaculture Association has been formed and Extension has initiated a position of Aquaculture Agent. The agent helped organize 20 members in the association.

A trickle irrigation demonstration project was established by Extension Service to show growers how to utilize their limited irrigation water supplies to an economical advantage.

HAWAII

The original Small Farms Committee used as its Small Farm Family Assistance Project a program called "Upgrading Technology Skills and Managerial Techniques of Small Family Farmers in Selected Rural Communities."

The Committee was amazed to discover the number of small farmers that were uncovered by Extension Service. During the past year, more than 200 small farm families worked with 4 1/2 para-professionals on two islands. Subjects covered included farm credit, culture practices in vegetable and fruits, production, drip irrigation, small engines, pest control, basic management, etc. A group of small vegetable farmers continued to receive technical co-op assistance for their Kilanea Farmer Cooperative in the areas of supplies and marketing. The Agencies on the Small Farms Committee because of spatial problems created by the distances between islands have become "mission oriented." Because of travel logistics, committee meetings are held twice a year. Associated with the Small Farms Committee is the Hawaii Rural Development Committee. This is operated out of the Governor's Office.

IDAHO

In 1979, the Agricultural Development Project began on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. The purpose of this project is to construct an irrigation system to develop farming enterprises for the Shoshone - Piate Tribe who live there. This project will help protect the Tribe's present water rights to Wild Horse Reservoir and also provide feed for livestock during winter months resulting in increased cattle production. In addition to new employment opportunities, this project should provide a badly needed source of income to support tribal operations, social services, and other reservation developments. The Economic Development Administration provided grant funds totalling \$1,500,000 in 1980. HUD is supplying the funding required to upgrade transmission lines to facilitate pumping for irrigation.

ILLINOIS

The Brown County Special ACP Project provided 80 percent cost sharing which allowed conservation practices to be available to farms averaging only 200 acres in size. In 1980, 100,000 in ACP funds were received by the project and additional funds were received in 1981.

Two areas in southern Illinois with many small and minority operated farms were designated as demonstration areas. Two Extension Advisors were hired to work exclusively with these farmers. Currently one Extension Advisor position is vacant, but referrals to other agency services continues.

In the 1980 fiscal year, 261 operating loans were made to limited resource farmers in Illinois for a total of \$6,685,000. Farm ownership loans were made to 156 limited resource farmers for a total of \$16,071.00.

The University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station has conducted field interviews with small farmers, and is assembling data

on the composition of small farm families, their use of public programs, off farm employment, and other data which should provide information necessary to identify and assess their special needs.

INDIANA

The Indiana Small Farm Task Force is a subcommittee of the State Rural Development Committee. Local small farm activity is carried on by 18 Regional Rural Development committees. The State Small Farms Task Force includes members of the Indiana Commission on Aging, Indiana Division of Commerce, ACTION, CSA, as well as USDA agencies and the Division of Forestry.

A Small Farm Energy Workshop was held October 9, 1980, at the fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana. Over 500 people attended this one day meeting which stressed what is being done now in the areas of wood, on-farm alcohol production, solar heat, speciality crops for energy, and energy conservation.

In FY 1980, 35 percent of FmHA operating loans and 49 percent of farm ownership loans went to limited resource farmers.

One Rural Development Region conducted a meeting in March 1981 in Vincennes, Indiana, for small farm owners. The subject of this one day meeting was strip mine leases, a relatively new concern in this area.

A second region sponsored a meeting on March 7, 1981, for farmers to discuss conservation tillage. Purdue University and a major oil company were featured on this program.

Another region held their Farm Family farms meetings during 1980 and discussed farm management. All three meetings were well attended.

Lastly, one region evaluated what they had done for small farms and decided that since many farms had changed lately, it would be necessary to re-educate people on what USDA has to offer. USDA agencies produced joint publications explaining services available to farmers. Names and addresses of USDA agency personnel were listed in the Indiana Agricultural Directory along with a list of services offered by each agency.

IOWA

Discussions relating to the problems of the small and limited resource farmers and families in Iowa are included during meetings of the Land Use Committee and the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Each agency represented on the above committees is making a special effort within their agency to assure full participating in available programs of all small farmers in Iowa, particularly minority farmers and women operators of small farms.

A major small farmer effort in Iowa for 1981 and future years will be to discourage the enactment of rules and regulations which would prove detrimental to small farmers.

Many young and beginning farm families in Iowa lack the resources and technical knowledge needed to provide adequate income for family living and to become financially established in farming. These families have a special need for basic education in farm business analysis and decisionmaking as well as consultation on making decisions they face in their early years of farming.

The Extension Farm and Home Management program in several areas of the state and the Rural Family Development Program in the Creston Area are attempting to meet the needs of this clientele. The Farm and Home Management stresses recordkeeping and analysis, resource management, and business planning. Participants are expected to "graduate" from the program after a period of 3 to 5 years.

The farm management and home management aides, trained and supervised by the county Extension directors and home economists, are employed in four counties. They are working with over 100 families on a one-to-one basis, in developing cash flow projections for their farms, keeping records on the farm business as well as family living expenses. Farm visits, at least monthly, have as their purpose to bring out problems on individual farms.

KANSAS

The three Cooperative Extension Agents in Franklin County Kansas are working with a southeast area extension economist to give intensive assistance to twelve families enrolled in a small farms program. Working with the families, they established a series of lessons on credit, farm management, choices of projects for their respective farms, and a number of other topics to assist the families to gain added insights into segments of their farm and home operations. Other USDA agencies including the Farmers Home Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, ASCS, and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation have pledged their support in any reasonable way they can give assistance to the program.

The 113,000 acre Soldier Creek Watershed Project in northeast is making good progress. ASCS is making needed cost-share funds available out of their regular appropriation to Kansas. The Soil Conservation Service is providing the necessary technical assistance to get the work done. The Environmental Protection Agency has provided a two-year grant to the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service to provide educational work in connection with the Soldier Creek Project. One of Kansas' senior extension agricultural agents has transferred to this project to give leadership and guidance to the work being done. The program is specifically aimed at farmers with critical water quality problems in

order to help them correct such situations. More than half the farmers in the Soldier Creek Watershed Project are categorized as small farm operators.

The Wakarusa Watershed Project is a pilot project on water quality improvement. Funding is coming through the Rural Clean Water Act. It is supported by special ASCS and SCS funds from the federal level. The Cooperative Extension Service is providing technical assistance in pesticides and nutrients with regard to the project. Other USDA agencies are cooperating as appropriate. Again, approximately half the farms in the Wakarusa Watershed area are in the small farm category.

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Small Farm Committee plan for 1981 is to work through district committees and establish county small farm committees as appropriate. This year the State Small Farm Committee is considering establishing at the local level a family farm development program. The objective would be to have community volunteers as paraprofessionals or agricultural assistants. A private organization HEAD, Human/Economic Appalachian Development, is very actively pursuing this goal. They are working with the State Cooperative Extension Service as well as ACTION. The Kentucky Small Farm Committee will actively pursue this project.

Ten small farm assistance projects, centering around conservation practices and coordinated service delivery, exist in Kentucky. The Fleming County Project has been unique in its concern for a broad range of human service needs, such as housing, weatherization, and environmental clean-up, in addition to a core of activities based on the ASCS ACP Program. Leadership for the Fleming County project is provided through the ASCS state and county offices.

LOUISIANA

The principal activities of the Louisiana State Small Farm Committee have centered around a multi-county Small farm Family Assistance Project which borders on some Arkansas counties. During 1980, the committee had to contend with several set backs:

(1) a limited purpose agency, created through the Community Services Administration, was dissolved due to lack of funding. This agency was to provide overall management of the multi-county project.

(2) extreme heat and severe drought prevented obtaining results from demonstration agricultural practices in the multi-county area.

(3) a companion project, administered through Southern University, lagged in the latter part of 1980 due to a loss of key personnel.

The Southern University project has been reorganized and demonstrations are being set up for 1981. Aides will continue to work out of county Extension Agents' offices to support this effort.

For 1981, ASCS has announced two new cost sharing practices on a pilot basis in 12 parishes, three of which originally made up the Small Farm Family Assistance area. These practices are no-till and reduced-till farming. The committee feels that reduced-till will be especially adaptable since specialized equipment is not needed to carry it out.

Farmers Home Administration continues to make low-interest limited resource loans to small farmers in the project area. FY 1980, operating loans totally \$1,426,630 and farm ownership loans totalling \$3,194,230 were made to small farmers in the three parish area.

The Cooperative Extension Service completed a mailing list of all small farmers in each of the three parishes and all agencies are using this to make services available. In addition, the Extension Service member of the committee is working with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture in developing an area wholesale vegetable market located in West Carroll parish. The State Department of Agriculture has a staff person to inspect and grade commodities, locate markets, and provide advice to farmers. The State Legislature is being asked to fund this marketing service for four additional years, at which time it is hoped it will be self sustaining.

SCS continues to provide technical assistance to small farmers in the designated project area.

MAINE

The members of the Kennebec Valley Growers Cooperative, a Small Farm Family Assistance Project, are being assisted in developing conservation plans on their farms. This will help optimize the developments of their farm operations while conserving and improving their soil resources. The coop is receiving assistance through the Agricultural Cooperative Service as it moves into its second year of crop marketing. Marketing volume doubled in 1980 and the cooperative's produce was sold out three months earlier than planned. Contacts were established which will lead to increased marketing in 1981. Over 50 acres have been contracted for production in 1981. The cooperative applied to the Time and Tide RC & D and the Extension Service for funds for a vegetable specialist to assist coop members to increase and diversify the vegetable production. The position has been filled. Membership in the cooperative has doubled from 11 to 22 farmers. A new cooperative manager, a former Extension agent from Kent, Maine, has been hired. The manager has a M.S. in horticulture and is scheduled for attendance at the National Cooperative Managers Training Session at the National Cooperative Development Training Center, on the campus of the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. The training center is an activity of the Agricultural Cooperative Service.

MARYLAND

Several activities in Maryland have involved and benefitted small family farms in 1981. Fourteen special projects were carried out in 16 of the state's 24 counties. These projects, funded by ASCS and assisted by SCS and Extension, were directed at sediment, animal waste control, rural clean water, and the conservation of soil and water resources.

Due to the high number of small swine operations in the North-Central part of the state, a 4-week swine short course was held in Carroll County by Extension Service staff.

Dairy goats are enterprises for some small farm operators. The DHI testing program now has dairy goat owners throughout the state. A special Extension DHI Dairy Goat Records Workshop was attended by 32 breeders. Forty herds representing 300 goats were enrolled in the official DHI test program in 1980.

Extension has encouraged low income/tobacco farmers to use fall fumigation on their plant beds. It is estimated that 20 additional low income tobacco growers obtained yields of 1,500 pounds or more per acre.

Four beekeeping shortcourses in 1980 were attended by 162 individuals. The "Pollen Basket" newsletter goes to 2,000 people.

The Farm Institute for Small Part-Time Farmers and Home Gardeners program is conducted by the 1890 Extension Service at Eastern Shore University of Maryland branch. Total of 53 participants established roadside markets as an additional source of income.

The state Small Farm Subcommittee has released Elwyn Deal, Extension, with a note of thanks for his tenure as chairperson and has elected Ethyl Berryman, FmHA, as the new chairperson.

MASSACHUSETTS

The headquarters of the six-state New England Small Farmer Project has moved from Amherst to the New England Small Farm Institute, located in Belchertown, Massachusetts. Support for the New England Small Farmer Project has been received from the Massachusetts State government and other important agencies. Local banks have helped to fund a study to demonstrate the economic viability of small farm development in New England.

Berkshire-Franklin RC & D funds were provided to the Cooperative Extension Service to prepare technical fact sheets on raising various crops. The fact sheets concern cover crops, potatoes, and peppers.

Demonstration plots have also been established for sweet potatoes, a new crop for the state.

The Massachusetts Extension Service headquarters at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst provides a small farm resource center. County Extension personnel seeking information on specific issues of production, management, or marketing issues are welcome to use the resource center.

The New England Small Farm Management Assistance Program conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts has received a total of \$32,500 from the United Presbyterian Church, the Episcopal Church and the American Baptist Church to carry out a management program for small and part-time farmers. The funds will be distributed to the Extension Services in the six New England States to hire six part-time paraprofessionals Small Farm Management Assistants to work in selected counties.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Small Farms Task Force is continuing efforts as individual agencies to reach Michigan small and part-time farmers. The Upper Peninsula Project entitled "Reach Out to Help Small Farmers" has continued being funded from ASCS-ACP. This has been a very successful effort because all USDA agencies are working together. The project pulls together the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Small Farmers are benefiting from the improved practices being implemented and the cost sharing of the practices is an excellent incentive to help with the adaption of conservation practices.

ASCS is providing costs share ACP funds in Grand Traverse County to small/and or limited resource farmers for the seeding of critical areas exposed to erosion.

The Cooperative Extension Services is continuing many educational program efforts to reach small and part-time farmers. These programs often include local resource people. CES has also developed a direct marketing manual to assist farm groups and cities develop viable farmers markets. This will help additional cities and small farmers overcome with increasing transportation costs. The SCS, SCD, CES and the RC & D committee have been working cooperatively to identify appropriate soils in Grand Traverse County for specialty crop production. The next step is to survey the ground water situation for irrigation potential. This background work on specialty vegetable production has good potential for small and part-time farmers in that area.

FmHA and CES are cooperating on addressing farm management questions of FmHA borrowers via computer programs. This cooperative effort is focusing attention on the feasibility of beginning farmers requesting loans from FmHA. It is helping beginning farmers understand the complexity of today's farming enterprise and the need for good planning.

Also, a concentrated effort is being made by CES to develop a variety of crops in the Upper Peninsula. Birdsfoot trefoil seed production is a growing industry. The production and export of buckwheat is another crop that has potential for small farmers in the Upper Peninsula.

MINNESOTA

Several USDA agencies have worked closely with the Governor's Rural Development Council on projects to assist small and family farms which include:

- o the Opportunity Farming Project in Northern Minnesota where retired farmers are providing limited resource farmers with technical advice and supervision through the Extension Service.

- o the Farmstead Cheese Project is designed to assist farmers to produce cheese on the farms for sale locally and nationwide.

the Sheep Farming Project is developing training programs in sheep raising through a Vo-Tech correspondence course.

- o the Rural Venture Agricultural Center Project involves private and public funds tied in with the Control Data Corporation to provide training and production farming advice through a computer and educational materials program.

In addition, Minnesota FmHA and Extension Service have been working together for three years on a National Pilot Project involving the use of computer terminals as a loanmaking and servicing tool in the administration of the supervised credit programs of FmHA. There are now terminals in 20 FmHA offices in Minnesota. The objective of the project is to test the feasibility of using computers for developing farm plans and doing analyses with farmers in the day to day office operation. Funding is provided through April of 1982, at which time a final evaluation is due.

MISSISSIPPI

A major small farm activity in Mississippi during 1980 was the Small Farm Family Assistance Project in Winston County. All USDA agencies, CSA, ACTION, and the Mississippi State Employment Service (MSES) cooperated in an effort to focus their assistance on small farm families in the county. A large number of small farm families received educational information or assistance.

Specific agency activities include: ASCS-- 126 farmers carried out conservation practices earning \$61,643 in cost-sharing funds; FmHA -- 44 loans granted for various purposes (e.g. purchase or improve real estate, purchase equipment, farm animals, feed, seed, fertilizer, etc); Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service (MCES) -- Over 400 families grew commercial vegetable crops on 800 acres. Two paraprofessionals provided participating families with assistance on cultural practices and marketing. Six home management workshops were conducted in various communities through cooperative efforts of the Extension home economist and VISTA workers; SCS -- Conservation practices were completed which benefited 221 acres of cropland, 728 acres of pastureland and 121 acres of woodland owned by 42 small farmers. In addition, 13 new district cooperators involving 1,357 acres of land were identified. Planning assistance for development of conservation plans (685 acres), technical assistance on conservation planning or application (132 land users) and technical services on conservation planning or application (207 land users) were provided to a large number of small farmers; USFS -- 32 small timber sales, 375 cords of free fuel wood and 21 part or full-time jobs were provided to Winston County residents; CSA-ACTION -- four VISTA volunteers worked intensively with approximately 80 small farm families in home management, crop production, youth programs or social services; MSES - Many small farm family members were provided with job placement services and unemployment compensation benefits. Placements in jobs were low due to poor economic conditions. Other agencies or groups such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Winston County Board of Supervisors have provided additional support for this project. Participating agencies provide services to small farmers statewide. This project has been used to improve delivery of information and assistance to small farmers.

Reaching farmers working in industry with Extension educational materials has presented a real challenge. Several slide-tape sets have been developed by Extension Service for use in the break room or lunch areas of participating industries. Subjects covered by these sets included forestry, horticulture, feeder pig production, taxes, estate planning, farm records, energy conservation and beef cattle production. Educational pamphlets or handouts related to the slide-tape sets are placed nearby for the workers to pick up.

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The Extension horticultural specialist conducted five meetings for small vegetable growers with 175 attending. Extension program assistants made more than 330 personal contacts to counsel farmers on production and marketing fresh vegetables. The horticultural specialist made 10 contacts with vegetable brokers and buyers and assisted with the organization of a farmers market.

There were more than 3,100 acres of vegetables grown in 12 counties in Southwest Mississippi. The vegetables were sold through both wholesale and retail outlets for an estimated \$1,610,740. Most of the vegetables were sold direct to the consumer through local farmers markets and curb markets. For example, vegetable acreage increased in Greene County from 450 acres to 1,800 acres because of the establishment of an 18-county regional farmers market with gross sales of \$80,000.

MISSOURI

The Missouri Small Farm Family Program, conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service, is one of the more extensive small farm programs in the nation. The program enrolls families to have direct one-on-one contact with paraprofessionals who are called "education assistants."

A total of 38 education assistants worked with 1,761 families in 1979. This total included 135 minority families. By 1980, the net income per family was up 18 percent over the previous year, and over half of the families averaged an increase of \$1,419 in net worth. In addition, these families produced and preserved \$288,339 worth of fruits, meat, and vegetables.

Approximately one-third (35%) of the participating families are operating less than 50 acres of land, including cropland and non-cropland owned and rented. A total of 40% of the families produced feeder pigs (average 14 sows) and 40% also had some beef cows (average 20 cows). The 8% with dairy cows averaged 20 cows.

Education assistants are supervised by the County Extension Agents and make a special effort of refer members of the small farm family to other agencies providing the services they need. For example, 35 families in one area began participating, for the first time, with ASCS cost-sharing programs.

The Small Farm Swine Project in the Bootheel area of Missouri continues to function on a limited basis. Each agency is still offering assistance to those enrolled in the program. Due to current hog prices, it is difficult to show progress in terms of profit.

MONTANA

Montana has 11 mountain counties with 500 or more small landowners. Five of which counties have more than 50 percent small farmers in the rural population.

The 1,500 copies of the Small Farmer Newsletter reach every county in Montana, a number of other states and several provinces in Canada. Material is extracted from these newsletters for reprinting in a number of local newsletters.

The Direct Marketing Newsletter went through two issues in preparation for the 1980 fresh produce marketing year. Then, some 26 producers in Ravalli County, Montana were advertised in the 2000 marketing maps distributed to the public over the whole region.

Resettled Hmong tribesmen from Laos are being encouraged to use garden space donated for their use near their homes in the Missoula and Corvallis areas. This last year saw them raising produce mainly for their own use on an estimated 150,000 square feet of garden area. It is hoped that they will expand to a commercial scale in 1981. Five families have sold at least fifty cords of wood thus far. The RC & D Forester assisted in implementing this project.

A "Small Farmer's Handbook" will be further revised and printed for issue to beginning farmers and "homesteaders." During 1980 about 30 meetings, workshops, and seminars were carried out on: sheep, greenhouses, farm alcohol, alternative energy, poultry, and a number of other topics.

Three 3/4 inch color videotapes were made during 1980 on pruning fruit trees and classifying dairy goats. During 1981, up to ten videotapes, of five to ten minutes each, will be made. These will include: Grafting, Raised bed gardening, animal care, poultry care and other topics of interest to small farmers.

Material of interest to small farmers was printed in the "All-Montana Catalog," a comprehensive "whole earth" type catalog which is now being distributed throughout the United States.

The State Division of Forestry, United State Forest Service, University of Montana Forestry School, Missoula County ASCS Office, and private landowners are cooperating in experiments with farm-sized logging equipment, chipping of thinnings for the pulp and hog fuel market and mechanized thinning.

Experiments and planting trial for high-value small farm cash crops continue at the Western Montana Research Center, Corvallis 59828.

NEBRASKA

During the winter and spring of 1980, five informational meetings were held in Washington County primarily for owners of small acreages. Subjects covered included native grass planting, fruit tree production, forestry, and horticulture and were conducted by a private nurseryman and Extension specialists. Average attendance was 25 at each of the meetings. Since 1970, the population of the County has increased more than 14 percent. Many of these new beginners are moving on 10 acres or more and have had very little experience in agriculture or country living. Hence, an educational program on practices is needed to help these individuals make better use of their land.

The Farmers Home Administration has focused on limited resource loans for livestock with \$372,580 loaned to 37 farmers as part of the Nebraska Small Farm Family Assistance Project.

In the past five years, 12 farmers markets have been established in the southeastern part of Nebraska. Several other farmers markets have formed around the state.

The Lincoln ACTION Panel project is designed to locate the low-income farmers and ranchers in three Southeast Nebraska areas and help them become aware of the USDA resources and technical assistance available to help them, raise their standard of living, and improve their net income.

NEVADA

Nevada's Small Farm Family Assistance Project was completed in the spring of 1980 for 30 Indian families living on the Walker River Indian Reservation. The purpose of the project was to line the irrigation ditches on each family's private 20-acre allotment. About 660 linear feet of ditch were involved. This was an ASCS oriented project, based on cost-share. The Four Corners Regional Commission provided a \$30,000 grant, ASCS provided \$80,000, and the Indians shared \$22,000 in this water conservation project. The chairperson reports that there are enough funds to line ditches for a final 4 or 5 farms. This should be completed in 1981.

The Nevada Extension Service Small Farm Animal Health Program is providing information in fact sheets, videocassettes, newspaper articles and meetings. These give help concerning specific small farm program and small farmers have made over 400 queries regarding individual animal health problems by phone. Fifteen fact sheets have been produced and 10 tapes sent to radio stations in the state.

Alternative cash crops for increased income have been planted and field tested by Extension agents in Pershing county. Carrot yields averaged 30 to 35 tons per acre and turnips planted in August and grazed during October, November, and December averaged 25-35 tons per acre.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

An inventory of 2,000 small farmers was completed early in 1981 and formed the basis for a review of small farmer needs to be addressed by the New Hampshire Small Farm Committee. Small family farmers in New Hampshire are interested in improving their under-developed operations in order to produce more vegetables for New Hampshire consumption. The most requested assistance from Extension Service concerns farm business management, woodlot management, agricultural marketing, animal production and vegetable production. The committee has cooperated with the New Hampshire Food Policy Committee in follow-through on recommendations designed to strengthen small farms in the state. Another state government committee, cooperating with the state small farm committee, is the Economic Development and Land Use Committee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Growth.

New Hampshire recently initiated the Seacoast Agricultural Production program in which two counties (towns) were selected for an agricultural inventory. This will be followed-up with an intensive effort to direct all available agricultural resources to assist the small farmers in the area.

The New Hampshire Food Policy Committee pointed out that the state produces 15 percent of its total food needs and listed the following agricultural production goals:

1. Recognize agriculture as an important industry in the balanced growth of New Hampshire and maximize the state's commercial food production and encourage small and part-time farming and home food production toward family and community self-sufficiency.
2. Encourage the increased productivity of the small and part-time farmer and identify the ways these farmers can plan an increasing role in food production.
3. Promote home food production so that those with the potential to produce food on their own property will be able to provide a portion of their food needs.
4. Increase production by commercial farmers so that, as the opportunities arise for the New Hampshire producer to compete, the resources will be available to meet the demands.
5. Have processing and storage facilities and services which will adequately serve the needs of New Hampshire's farmers, and have processing storage facilities which insure an adequate supply of food for New Hampshire throughout the year.
6. Expand livestock slaughtering and storage facilities in proportion to an increased production.

NEW JERSEY

Cost share assistance was provided to small farm operators in five counties through ASCS funded special projects. Technical assistance was provided by SCS, Extension Service, and others. A small farm assistance project was initiated in 1980 with \$60,000 in ASCS funds. Reports in July 1981 show that good progress is being made. Eleven small farm operations in Cumberland County have used \$32,849 in cost share funds on conservation practices which will help develop and improve agricultural operations. Twenty-six small farm operations used \$55,620 for conservation and resource improvement in Salem County. It is reported that the participants and others in this small family farm project hope it will continue. They feel the project is helping small farmers better use and develop their resources.

NEW MEXICO

Originally, the Small Farms Committee prepared a plan of action which included a Small Farm Family Assistance Project, called the "Northern New Mexico Sheep Improvement Program." The project proposed to improve small farm production through increasing flock production and management practices. The Northern New Mexico Community College was to provide the leadership and responsibility for the project. Every avenue to seek funding was pursued but to no avail. This needed program was never launched.

Extension Service held a special series of five community meetings to help small farmers become more aware of practical cattle management and nutrition practices as well as practices related such as irrigated pasture management.

A majority of the 147 farmers enrolled in the Extension sheep shearing school were small farm flock producers and wanted to shear their own sheep. Savings to the 147 will total about \$18,000.

The Extension Service was able to get 10 Farmers Markets established in locations that have provided farmers from \$200 to \$900 average sales per week. Total of 160 farmers sold at Santa Fe and 116 farmers at Los Alamos. And, 10,000 bumper stickers were used statewide to advertise Farmers markets. Over 750 small farms are participating in Farmers Markets throughout the state.

NEW YORK

Thirty-three small farms in Cattaraugus County were identified for participation in a limited resource farm management project. Management assistance was provided and ACP special project funds were furnished to assist with needed land treatment measures on these farms. \$200,000 has been committed in this effort. In another area of this

county, the Extension service is providing a paraprofessional planner to assist limited resource farmers. Farmers Home Administration has agreed to provide low-interest loans to assist in the needed land management measures.

The South Central New York RC & D has undertaken a program which will assist small farmers. Throughout the southern tier of New York, there is much marginal, idle pasture land. This land could be effectively used to produce beef, lamb, and other livestock. A livestock specialist is on duty to educate and otherwise assist in improving pasture management programs. No-till methods will be used in renovating grazing areas. A grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission will be used to hire an agronomist and purchase the special no-till equipment that is needed. The program has three identifiable phases: (1) better use of idle lands, (2) livestock management assistance and education, and (3) livestock marketing. It is hoped that efforts for production of marginal land through sound conservation practices will spread through other parts of New York.

Interest by small farms in direct marketing is on the increase. The annual direct marketing conference by Extension reached 400 people.

A three-year Limited Resources Farm Management Program in Chenango County conducted by Extension Service gave these results: 25 percent of the farmer participants gained enough new management skills to enable them to make better use of Extension and other agencies in the county in making farm management decisions. Another 29 percent realized that physical, financial and/or personal resources were not equally balanced for a successful farming operation. The use of a paraprofessional aide proved effective in reaching the clientele.

NORTH CAROLINA

Presently the Extension Farm Opportunities Program employs 27 paraprofessionals and each works with a minimum of 35 limited resource farm families.

The State Small Farm Task Force recommended a pilot project be implemented for small farmers in Columbus, Johnson, and Yadkin counties. The 1862 and 1890 Extension Services are providing an agricultural aide for each of the pilot counties.

During the past fiscal year, over 150 small farmers were able to sell their produce directly to consumers primarily through six refrigerated mobile roadside markets.

A vegetable marketing cooperative for small farmers is scheduled to begin operation for the 1981 harvest. Over the past year, two counties formed small grower organizations.

Many small farmers now realize that some form of irrigation is essential to successful horticultural production.

NORTH DAKOTA

The main goal of the North Dakota Small Farm Family Committee is to provide guidance and direction to the County Rural Development Committees.

The State Small Farm Committee includes key representatives of USDA agencies and state government especially the State Department of Agriculture. The Small Farm Family Committee meets every other month to review the objectives outlined for the County Rural Development Committees and the progress they are making. Each of the Small Farm Family Committee members is assigned counties where they follow up by phone or personal contacts, where possible, to assist and answer questions counties may have.

The Directory of Assistance available to Small Farm Families continues to be distributed. The Directory is designed to provide basic information on state and federal programs that are available in North Dakota including the contact points for the assistance.

The Small Farm Family Committee works very closely with ACTION which has provided VISTA Volunteers throughout the state. These VISTA Volunteers work in one or more counties to assist the County Rural Development Committees to continue with the objectives of the Small Farm Family Committee. The objectives of the Small Farm Family Committee Program in North Dakota is to determine what the people of the small farms need rather than the government telling them what they need and make personal contacts to determine these needs. In so doing, the maximum utilization existing programs can be achieved.

North Dakota continues to work with the Standing Rock Community Project. The project involves young people from the Standing Rock Reservation gaining actual classroom and farming experience. The first students of the class are scheduled to graduate in December 1981. We are now working towards providing assistance through USDA and the State of North Dakota programs to help these individuals get established on their own family farm unit.

OHIO

The Ohio State Small Farm Committee has reported on a wide range of activities, usually conducted on a county basis with the county USDA committee involved in an advisory capacity. In most cases, county committees have made a special effort to develop a list of small farm families. After the list is developed, the farms are visited, meetings are held, and special publications are directed to those families identified.

Some sample activities:

In Morrow County, USDA officials held meetings and distributed a special newsletter for forty small farm families related to woodlot management. Other meetings were held on fruit, vegetable, nursery, and Christmas tree production and marketing.

Cuyahoga County developed of 50 small farm families in an organized program related to small crop production on small acreages. Also discussed was leasing of land, and small livestock units.

A seven county program has been developed working with families to improve their income by selling fruits and vegetables through a farmers market.

Geauga County has a program entitled "Farm Fever" for small families. the subject areas covered in the program include zoning, water supplies, sewage, vegetable production, feeder pig production, and marketing.

Athens County has developed a group of small farm families with a strong interest in organic gardening.

The Cooperative Extension Service of Ohio State University continues to prepare a limited number of publications, newsletters, letter study course materials on small farm issues. One of their most recent documents is on "Managing the Small Swine Enterprise in Ohio."

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma has an active Small Farm Program statewide in addition to a Small Farm Family Assistance Project (SFFAP).

The statewide program consists of each county having a County Small Farm Committee. Each County Committee has developed a plan of operation that defines small farmers in each county, sets out their needs and problems, and responds to the needs or provides assistance in solving the problems.

The SFFAP project area is 11 counties in eastern and central Oklahoma with a large percentage of the population full or part Indian. There are other minorities also. This is a low-income area of Oklahoma where most farmers require off-farm income to have even minimum level of living.

The project consists of the selection of small farmers in each county with a low-income level and a low-living standard. A small farm management advisory service will be established to make available to small farmers technical and financial resources that are needed to increase income and improve their quality of life. These resources are already available from existing agencies but are not being utilized to any extent by this segment of farmers. This management advisory service will assist the small farmers in using their resources.

The project will start with 10 families in each county with a 50% annual increase in participants anticipated.

Agency involvement includes:

- o The Cooperative Extension Service will provide an agricultural program of farm management and a home economic program in consumer education, food and nutrition and clothing (value \$220,000).
- o Community Services Administration and ACTION have a two-pronged plan: (1) to establish a Professional Small Farm Management Advisory Service that will include staffing to work with the small farmers as well as supervision; and (2) to improve the quality of life by enrolling families in their numerous social services, rehabilitative, educational and job opportunity programs (funding about \$75,000).
- o FmHA is planning total loans of about \$8.7 million for small farmers with limited resources who qualify in the 11-county area.
- o ASCS set aside about \$100,000 of ACP funds for this project.
- o SCS will provide technical assistance at an estimated \$22,000 level for the small farmer in the project.
- o The Kerr Foundation will cooperate in the project and provide management teams to assist small farmers.

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- o Oklahoma State Department of Vocational and Technical Education will cooperate in the project and provide technical assistance.
- o Oklahoma State University and Langston University will provide assistance in this program.

OREGON

The Mid-Willamette Small Farm Family Assistance Program, now one and a half years old, has been the principal small farm assistance effort in the state. It is producing some very interesting information about the small farm family and their relationship with government.

To date, 42 families were selected out of 96 applicants. FmHA loans totalling \$590,000 were made to 20 farmers, ASCS cost-share totalling \$35,000 was given to 14 farmers. All 42 now have notebooks and 25 have a completed Conservation Plan. Two VISTAS are now on line to recruit, train, and monitor volunteer counselors from local communities. Six volunteers are presently working with clientele. Four agencies in three different counties, representing 12 offices are now working together to provide assistance to the 42 families. This work is also coordinated through the regional and state offices of these Federal agencies and through the State Rural Development Committee.

The participants are keeping detailed financial records, and the notebooks have a section for comments from agency personnel and others who make visits. Net income increases and farm operation changes will be measured at the end of the project.

Our project now engages approximately 15 volunteer farmers and agricultural industry representatives who are available to counsel the program participants. This has been most effective for small dairies where a varied group of advisors have teamed together to help the individual dairymen.

Two VISTA volunteers joined the project in late 1980 to develop better marketing techniques for small farms. Several farmers markets have been either strengthened or organized for the 1981 season. In addition, a bulk commodities exchange cooperative is about to be organized. They will coordinate bulk sales with restaurants, food buying clubs (of which there are now 38 in the project area), and other bulk outlets.

In order to acquaint others with the activities of this small farm project, a training meeting is being scheduled for middle managers of

all USDA agencies statewide. The program is planned to include a panel discussion from the program participants as well as reports from USDA personnel directly involved with the project in the counties. Upon completion of this training, it is expected that the state's small farm efforts will be expanded to other parts of the state, especially in areas with significant small farm populations.

PENNSYLVANIA

In the last reporting year, 10,115 small farm family operators have developed conservations plans in Pennsylvania. In the southwest portion of the state, Project GRASS was initiated. This included year-round grazing programs and increased production of sheep and beef for small farms. A soil conservationist was added to the area staff to implement the project.

Small farm family operators have a large input in project CUT (clean up the Tioga River) in north central Pennsylvania. The project area lies above the Corps of Engineers flood control and recreation structure on the Tioga River. The non-structural public law 566 program has assisted numerous small family farmers apply land treatment measures to improve the water quality of the river and reservoir.

Penn State University produces a special newsletter on small scale agriculture. One Penn State researcher has worked for three years on a project sponsored by the National Rural Center to identify small farm research and policy issues. Another faculty member is doing research on post-harvest handling to improve marketing of sweet corn, cantaloupe, and strawberries - important crops for smaller producers. Other research is testing new fencing materials that would help small scale livestock farmers.

PUERTO RICO

In a project known as "El Melon" in the hills of Coamo in South-central Puerto Rico, 24 farmers are involved in a 300-acre site. The lack of water in this area is a problem. Two deep wells have been developed into a water system by SCS to supply water for a poultry enterprise, livestock, and small irrigation system. Two large water tanks with a combined capacity of 100,000 gallons supply water for agricultural uses to the 24 farms which average 7 to 40 acres. (The Puerto Rican administration purchased the idle farmland and divided it into 24 farms with a very low interest rate to the farmers.)

Each farm has two poultry buildings for 10,000 chickens each one with 80,000 pounds of broiler production every 7 to 8 weeks. As secondary enterprises, many of the 24 farmers are cultivating truck crops and vegetables and beef cattle and goats on pastures.

RHODE ISLAND

The Small Farm Family Assistance Project in Rhode Island is completed. SCS, ASCS, and CES met with many small farmers and encouraged them to install conservation practices. ASCS enrolled 57 farmers in various practices. Farmers were informed, through a special outreach effort, about various USDA resources. More than \$2 million of FmHA funds were loaned to 45 small farmers, including approximately 40% to limited resource borrowers.

Through the SFFAP, three small farm groups were established in the state because of the efforts of a VISTA volunteer and the Cooperative Extension Service. Also farmers markets were established and workshops were conducted by Extension on both production and marketing. The Rhode Island small farmers benefited from services of the six-state New England Small Farmer Project.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Small farm programs have been reported for horticulture crops in 40 counties and 26 counties have established direct-to-consumer markets. These markets have returned an estimated increase in farm revenue of \$2 million annually to these small farmers. The 1,060 small farmers who produce horticultural crops have improved their production or marketing practices through direct contact methods.

Plans have been completed for a master garden volunteer program in Charleston County. The Extension Home Garden Manual was published and 100,000 copies have been distributed in the state.

Due to requirements of most poultry contracting companies, limited resource farmers cannot produce enough volume to interest them. However, they can compete on a local market. Twenty potential producers were counseled by Extension regarding small independent egg production units.

Presently the 1890 Extension Service Program serves 541 families in home gardening and small farm enterprises in four counties. Demonstration projects were conducted on the farms of program families with emphasis on improved livestock and crop production. In Marlboro County, 22 producers planted 76 acres of okra and several reported sales of \$450 to \$550 per acre. The direct markets in Anderson, Georgetown and Marlboro counties generated approximately \$124,500 in to the economy of these counties.

During the past year, this Division of Economic Development and Transportation within the Office of the Governor has expressed interest in small farm training. Under consideration is establishment of a permanent training site along with using existing small farms for demonstrations. The programs are designed to make available to small farmers information known by large commercial scale operators on land use techniques, irrigation, and management.

SOUTH DAKOTA

11 VISTA workers, many of them retired farmers, continue to contact small farmers in their counties. This project is getting results in finding small farmers who need USDA services such as dams, dugouts, trees, housing grants and loans as well as farm operating and real estate loans.

The South Dakota and North Dakota VISTAs have held meetings to exchange experiences and learnings.

An interagency evaluation team visited the Small Farm Family Assistance Project in Charles Mix County in 1980. They commended the State and local small farm committees for effective interagency cooperation. The project serves more than 60 small farm families.

TENNESSEE

The Small Farm Committee in Tennessee is a subcommittee of the State Rural Development Committee. It includes members from both the 1862 and 1890 Extension Services, Agricultural Experiment Station, CSA and ACTION as well as FmHA, FS, ASCS and SCS.

The Small Farm Committee has recently revised the state's Plan of Action for Assisting Small Farmers. An effort was made to eliminate duplication, revise dates and combine concerns which had similar solutions.

At the January, 1981 meeting of the Small Farm Committee, several agencies presented reports of activities including the Extension Service, FmHA, ASCS and SCS.

A summary of efforts to help small farmers in Tennessee is as follows:

The Extension Service has an educational program for small farmers in effect in all 95 counties with additional resource staff for small farm families in 24 counties. Fourteen paraprofessionals are working with small farmers in 14 counties and 10 professionals are working with small farmers in 10 counties. The number of paraprofessionals has been reduced greatly due to cuts in funding. A small farm newsletter to the paraprofessionals was begun in 1980 by a specialist working with this program.

The Chestuee Creek Watershed project in McMinn and Monroe counties should be completed this year. A total of almost \$1 million in cost-share funds has been provided for this project since its inception in 1978.

Special cooperative efforts between the University and TVA are underway in 16 counties to develop education programs for small farmers who are near the lower end of the income scale.

Claiborne County has developed a vegetable marketing cooperative serving their area. Over 40 small producers sold through the Co-op this first year with plans to expand in 1981. Many small producers are involved in direct marketing of fruits and vegetables. The Extension Service conducted a direct marketing conference in Bristol in March, 1980, and four were held in 1981.

A directory of "Sources of Agricultural Credit" is being developed. It will list the office and location of major ag credit sources across the State.

Depending on which definition for small farm is used, over three fourths of Tennessee's farms could be classified as small farms.

TEXAS

The Texas Small Farm committee is composed of representatives from SCS, ASCS, ACTION, Agriculture Experiment Station, FmHA, FS, and Extension Service. This is a subcommittee of the State Rural Development committee. Texas has had an active small farm effort since 1969. Each agency contributes to this total effort by coordinating their resources at the local county level. The major thrust of the Texas effort is built around working with the entire family, bringing to bear appropriate resources needed.

The following are examples of work conducted during the past year.

1. More than 200 new conservation plans for small farmers were developed in the Victoria area.
2. Conservation assistance was provided to over 275 small farmers in the Victoria area.
3. Small farm subcommittees exist in 15 counties to plan educational programs for small farmers.
4. An intensive agent training program is conducted by the 1890 Extension program designed to strengthen educational assistance to this group.
5. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has initiated research activity in this area.

Continued efforts will be made to allocate appropriate resources from all USDA agencies to meet the needs of small farmers in Texas during 1981.

UTAH

Utah's Small Farm Program efforts are mission-oriented by agencies. In the Fall of 1980, the state small farm committee started to organize regional Small Farm Committees in five development districts. Currently, the Commissioner of Agriculture is setting up a State Agricultural Development Council. Membership is made up of Federal and State agencies, and representatives of the cattlemen's, wool growers, and turkey producers.

Farm flock sheep operations participated in an Extension supervised wool and lamb marketing pool in two Utah and two Idaho counties. Meetings were conducted with the producers to instruct them on the proper handling and preparation of fleeces and the market outlook for wool. Over 2,000 fleeces were sold through the pool for an average of .8312 cents per pound which compared very favorably to the price received from large commercial clips. Over 1,000 lambs were also marketed through two finished lamb sales. Pooling made it possible to put together sufficient lambs to attract buyers from packing plants in Southern California.

VERMONT

Small scale producers have emerged in Vermont as a major group. Over the past number of years, a small scale producer has been considered a family farmer, a farm with a small volume of agricultural sales, a limited resource farm, a subsistence farm, a retirement farm, or a part time farm. A common thread running through each of these is that they fall outside the mainstream of commercial agriculture.

Vermont, like other New England states, has experienced recently a dramatic decline in farmland under cultivation. This process has accelerated at an alarming rate in recent decades due to commercial pressures to convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Vermont now imports nearly 85% of the food it consumes. The Vermont Act 250 Program is designed in part to protect agricultural land, but to some observers, has created numerous ten to twenty acre parcels of land with one house being built on each. There is some opportunity for small scale agricultural development on these parcels. Small scale producers

in Vermont often face (1) a lack of available credit to purchase necessary capital and inputs, (2) family health problems, (3) inexperience in production and management of agricultural products, (4) lack of business management skills, (5) unavailability or organized markets, and (6) poor cash flow.

The objectives of the Vermont Small Farm Program include demonstrating the ability of State and Federal agencies to counsel and assist small scale agricultural producers in production, management, and marketing. The goal is increased profitability and quality of life for small scale agricultural producers. The proposed program suggests selecting one small scale producer in each county leading to a balanced series of 14 enterprises. Next, a complete analysis of farm and family will be completed to help identify needs, interest, potentials, and priorities, and to develop farm plans. Third, State and Federal agencies will assist each farm through appropriate resources. Each county will create a team of current staff persons to work with families to help deliver and carry out the farm and family plan. Evaluation of each of the 14 demonstration farms would be made at the end of a two year period.

VIRGINIA

The major accomplishment of the Virginia Small Farm Task Force of the Virginia State Rural Development Committee during 1980 and 1981 was planning and conducting a series of small farm listening conferences held throughout various regions in Virginia. Recommendations from small farmers were assembled and will be published in a proceedings. In general, farmers attending the conferences called on USDA agencies to make a greater special effort to tailor their requirements to the needs of smaller producers. Farmers also requested greater assistance in management techniques. It seemed generally agreed, by the farmers themselves, that small farmers are a harder-to-reach audience.

The conferences were notable for their attempt to elicit comments on how the State Division of Forestry could better assist small farmers with woodlot management.

Another accomplishment is a revised agricultural credit handbook prepared through the cooperation of Federal and State lending institutions under the direction of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

In an attempt to increase small animal production, two 2-day workshops were held by the Extension Service. A total of 97 farmers were in attendance at a marketing workshop.

The high cost of imported food in FY 80 helped Extension Service encourage 200 small families to plant home gardens for the first time. In implementing the kitchen garden program, 550 families were reached and a total of 25 fact sheet titles were prepared for this thrust. Also, 5 workshops were conducted on St. Croix and St. Thomas with 198 growers in attendance.

In the Community Garden program, 12 small plot holders were taught correct pesticide usage and safety. A total of 76 people attended and participated in three workshops teaching propagation of fruits and ornamental plants.

WASHINGTON

The Washington Small Farm Network staff will prepare a directory describing the services and activities that USDA agencies provide to support small farms.

Under discussion is an Agricultural Credit Conference involving private lenders, PCA, FLB, and FmHA personnel to consider farm credit needs.

Pacific Northwest Economic Associates, Vancouver, who recently completed the Northwest Agricultural Development Project Reports, have been contracted to administer a survey on small farmers' marketing needs and their aspirations and resource levels. It is expected the survey will be distributed in the fall. All USDA agencies are participating in the mailing list development for the survey.

The AGNET computerized service from the University of Nebraska and other computer information services were evaluated in 1981 for their applications to small farms.

The Washington Small Farm Network (WSFN) was awarded a \$250,000 low interest (1% for 5 years) loan by the Community Services Administration. The funds are to be re-loaned (at 8 to 10 %) to small farmers, direct marketing groups, and locally owned agricultural-related industries employing rural low income people. Loans to date include funds for development of a greenhouse, cider press and roadside stand for an intensive 3-acre direct-market operation, and an on-farm sprouting business.

Extension Service agents and aide designed and orchard training program to be taught in Spanish, and a special session on "What Shall I plant in 1980?" was held for a group of Hispanics.

WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia State Small Farm Committee has monitored a most successful Small Farm Family Assistance Project in the Upper Pocatalico region. The Community Services Administration and VISTA volunteers

supplied by ACTION have worked together with USDA agencies. The Community Action Agency has contacted small farm families and has arranged for many of them to weatherize their homes and to avail themselves of appropriate human services.

Monthly newsletters are distributed to nearly 300 project area families with information concerning programs of state and national agricultural agencies. Many of the farmers are participating in ACP conservation programs, receiving cost sharing through ASCS and technical assistance through SCS. Through coordination with FmHA, farm operating and ownership loans have been secured by project participants. Technical information has included such areas as home gardening, beekeeping, livestock production, pasture management, water quality, farm safety, pesticide use, etc.

About 80% of West Virginia cooperators in USDA programs are small farm operators.

WISCONSIN

The Small Farm Sub-Committee has had several meetings to discuss recommendations that will be made to the Rural Development Committee regarding USDA programs and efforts to assist small farmers in Wisconsin.

The following actions will be taken by the committee to collect information concerning small farms projects in Wisconsin:

David Moyer, ESCS, and William Saupe, UW-Extension, will develop a questionnaire to send to all ASCS County Development Committees requesting information on small farms projects in their counties. It is anticipated that once the projects have been identified that the Small Farms Committee will recommend to the Rural Development Committee that some recognition be given the County groups for their work with small farmer groups.

William Saupe will have completed all of the tabulations of his recent farm survey of small farmer groups. The committee will use these final tabulations and conclusions to make recommendations to the Rural Development Committee.

WYOMING

A Wyoming Small Farm Committee has been organized and meets on a regular basis to plan, discuss, and evaluate small farmers' needs and problems. The committee consists of two small farmer representatives as well as USDA agencies, ACTION and CSA. Middle management rural development committees consisting of district or area representatives from the USDA agencies, State agencies, and others have been organized and are assisting in the small farm efforts.

Also, county rural development committees have been organized and are helping to identify small and family-sized farmers and ranchers. They are now assisting in conducting informational meetings.

A farmers market was started in Worland in 1979. A Directory of Services available to family farmers and ranchers in Wyoming was prepared and printed in February 1980.

Projects planned in FY 81 include: (1) alternative energy sources (family-sized); (2) joint ownership of equipment; (3) training for off-farm employment; and (4) sheep production with farm flocks.

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